

The Old Paths

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." -Jeremiah 6:16

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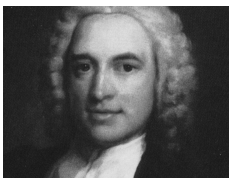
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Wanted: A Burning Heart!

If you as a leader lack a burning heart, few of your people will be known for their burning hearts, and they will make little impact on the world about them...

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It Behoved Christ to suffer



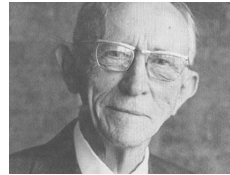
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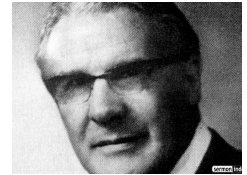
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Wanted: A Burning Heart!



"God's answer to a world of indifference, materialism, coldness, and mockery is burning Christian hearts in pulpits, in pews, in Sunday schools, in Bible institutes, and in Christian colleges and seminaries."

If you as a leader lack a burning heart, few of your people will be known for their burning hearts, and they will make little impact on the world about them. Our communities are little impressed by our programs and manifold activities. It takes more than a busy church, a friendly church, or even an evangelical church to impact a community for Christ. It must be a church ablaze, led by leaders who are ablaze for God.

John Wesley, evangel of the burning heart, was reportedly asked by a fellow minister how to gain an audience. He replied, "If the preacher will burn, others will come to see the fire." One of Wesley's biographers called him a man "out of breath pursuing souls." On the grave of Adam Clarke, early Methodist scholar and protégé of Wesley, are the words, "In living for others, I am burned away."

A century ago T. DeWitt Talmage wrote, "We want in this age above all wants, fire – God's holy fire, burning in the hearts of men, stirring their brains, impelling their emotions, thrilling in their tongues, glowing in their countenances, vibrating in their actions, expanding their intellectual power and fusing all their knowledge, logic, and rhetoric into a burning stream. Let this baptism descend, and thousands of us who, up to this day, have been but commonplace or weak ministers, such as might easily pass from the memory of mankind, would then become mighty." This is still true.

A passionless Christianity will not put out the fires of hell. We do not need wildfire; wildfire does not glorify our holy Christ. It is holy fire, the fire with which the Holy Spirit baptizes us. We need the fire and zeal of the early Church when almost every Christian was ready, if need be, to be a martyr for Christ.

It is not to be earned, worked up, or simulated. Only God can baptize with fire. Only God can send Shekinah. Only God can meet your need and mine. We have labored too long without it. We have come

far short of God's glory without it. We have left our people too largely unmoved without it.

God's holy fire only descends upon prepared, obedient, hungry hearts. Perhaps the need that underlies all needs is that we are not hungry enough, not thirsty enough, not whole-souled enough in our desire. "If ye then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13)

Purposeless, passionless day after day!
Set us afire, Lord, stir us, we pray!"

Wesley L. Duewel - Wesley Duewel, is a former president of OMS International. A missionary to India for 25 years, Dr. Duewel is also the author of *Ablaze for God*, *Mighty Prevailing Prayer*, *More God, More Power*, and *Revival Fire*. He speaks on revival currently and has been influential in passion for revival in many hearts world-wide. All the proceeds of his books has gone into missions and furthering the publications. Join the fellowship of the burning heart and receive the burden and desire for revival that this man had.



It Behoved Christ to suffer

"I know God has for Christ's sake forgiven me."

Sun., August 21st. At five I found a congregation of some thousands on the marsh, and spoke from Luke xxiv.46, 47: "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer," &c. They devoured every word with an eagerness beyond description. I advised them all to go to their several places of worship, and went myself to Christ-church. It is the largest church in Cork, yet quite full. The communion kept us till near ten.

Much good has been done already in this place. Outward wickedness has disappeared, outward religion succeeded. Swearing is seldom heard in the streets; the churches and altars are crowded to the astonishment of our adversaries. Yet some of our Clergy and all the Catholic Priests take wretched pains to hinder their people from hearing us. At five I took the field again; but such a sight I have rarely seen! Thousands and thousands had been waiting some hours, Protestants and Papists, high and low. The Lord endued my soul, and body also, with much strength to enforce the faithful saying, "that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners." I

cried after them for an hour, to the utmost extent of my voice, yet without hoarseness or weariness.

Many are turned from their outward sins, and, if they went no farther, the saints of the world would like them well enough. When the power of godliness, the forgiveness of sins, the gift of the Holy Ghost, is preached, many will fall off. But as yet the work is very superficial. Not one justified person have I yet found. One poor wretch told me, before his wife, that he had lived in drunkenness, adultery, and all the works of the devil, for twenty-one years; had beat her every day of that time, and never had any remorse till he heard us; but now he goes constantly to church, behaves lovingly to his wife, abhors the thing that is evil, especially his old sins. This is one instance out of many.

Stephen Williams witnessed that, "Last night I found my heart burdened and bursting in your prayer; but I repeated after you, till my speech was swallowed up. Then I felt myself as it were fainting, falling back, and sinking into destruction; when on a sudden I was lifted up, my heart was lightened, my

burden gone, and I saw all my sins at once, so black, so many, but all taken away. I am now afraid of neither death, devil, nor hell. I am happier than I can tell you. I know God has for Christ's sake forgiven me."

Charles Wesley (1707–1788). was a leader of the Methodist movement, the younger brother of John Wesley. Charles Wesley is chiefly remembered for the many hymns he wrote. He was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, where his brother had also studied, and formed the "Oxford Methodist" group among his fellow students in 1727 which his elder brother, John joined in 1729 soon becoming its leader and moulding it to his own notions. George Whitefield also joined this group a year later."



Repentance and Conversion

"It is a mercy we have not been in hell a thousand times..."

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" — Acts 3:19.

WHAT A PITY it is that modern preachers attend no more to the method those took who were first inspired by the Holy Ghost, in preaching Jesus Christ! The success they were honored with, gave a sanction to their manner of preaching, and the divine authority of their discourses, and energy of their elocution, one would think, should have more weight with those that are called to dispense the gospel, than all modern schemes whatever. If this was the case, ministers would then learn first to sow, and then to reap; they would endeavour to plough up the fallow ground, and thereby prepare the people for God's raining down blessings upon them.

I am preaching from a Bible that saith, "He that is in Christ is a new creature, old things", not "will" be, but "are passed away, all things", not only "will", but "are become new." As a child when born has all the several parts of a man, it will have no more limbs

than it has now, if it lives to fourscore years and ten; so when a person is converted to God, there are all the features of the new creature and growth, till he becomes a young man and a father in Christ; till he becomes ripe in grace, and God translates him to glory. Any thing short of this is but the shadow instead of the substance; and however persons may charge us with being enthusiasts, yet we need not be moved either to anger or sorrow, since Paul says, "I travel in birth till Christ be formed in your hearts."

It is a mercy we have not been in hell a thousand times. How many are there in hell that used to say, Lord convert me, but not now? One of the good old Puritans says, hell is paved with good intentions. Now can you blame me, can you blame the ministers of Christ if this is the case, can you blame us for calling after you, for spending and being spent for your souls? It is easy for you to come to hear the gospel, but you do not know what nights and days we have; what pangs we have in our hearts, and "how we travel in birth till Jesus Christ be formed

in your souls," Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken, God help you, save, save, "save yourselves from an untoward generation." Think of this, professors, and God make you possessors!

George Whitefield (1714-1770). George Whitefield was used greatly of God in the first great awakening (1730s - 1740s), was a minister in the Church of England and one of the leaders of the Methodist movement. In contemporary accounts, he, not John Wesley, is spoken of as the supreme figure and even as the founder of Methodism. He parted company with Wesley over the doctrine of predestination. He was famous for his preaching in America which was a significant part of the Great Awakening movement of Christian revivals..



Time For Judgement

"Unfaithful preachers, modernism, formality, worldliness..."

A good old revival is always a blessing because it pours the saints into a new vessel. "It is high time to awake out of sleep," and, however much they may resent it, better disturb the Sunday-morning sanctuary sleepers and empty them from vessel to vessel than let them come to judgment settled on their lees. Too many sermons are bedtime stories to lull the saints to sleep instead of morning reveilles to wake them up!

Peter says, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God." God begins with His own people: judgment, like charity, begins at home. Much of the blame for world conditions lies at the door of the church. Our indifference, our neglect, our failure to cry out against iniquity have encouraged the devil. Unfaithful preachers, modernism, formality, worldliness, unholy living have disgraced the house of God until He must like the Savior of old, first cleanse the temple. God's house has become a den of thieves and it is time for the whip of judgment.

"If it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And it the righteous scarcely be saved where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner. (Prov. 11:31).

We are entering upon the last days and God is sifting His people. There is beginning right now a separation between the great crowd of Sunday-morning church goers and those who really mean business with God. On one hand, we have the mass of nominal Christians who belong to church because the family does or because it is the nice thing to do, who draw nigh to God with their mouths and honor Him with their lips, while their hearts are far from Him. These will soon be shown up in their true colors: they will trim their sail to catch the breeze and end up in one great apostate aggregation in league with the powers that be, the world, the flesh and the devil. On the other hand, is the faithful remnant who hear the Lord and speak often one to another, saints from all the church bodies,

drawn together by a common love for Christ. These will be melted together in fires of testing with a comradeship like that at the early Christians in the catacombs of Rome.

Vance Havner (1901-1986). In describing his own ministry, Mr. Havner claims that he is not a preacher, nor an evangelist, nor a teacher nor an orator, nor a prophet. He claims that he is simply an "exhorter." This probably is an apt description of Vance Havner, whose sharp, incisive wit and unyielding proclamation of God's message to all men. His message is primarily to the church, Bible-centered exhortation to faith and obedience, and is marked by practical admonition. His emphasis is on revival among Christians which was one of the earmarks of this man's ministry before God.



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

"We are to be Saved, by Taking rather than by Doing...."

It is impossible to ask a more weighty Question! It is deplorable that we hear it asked with no more Frequency, with nor more Agony. The Spirit of Slumber which the Poison of the old Serpent has brought upon the children of Men is to be deplored exceedingly. Awaken us out of this terrible stupidity, O God of all Grace, lest we perish eternally.

That while you lie under the Guilt of Sin, you are also under the Reign of Sin, and under the Reign of Satan too; A most woeful Oppression from the Worst Enemies That Can Be. God is in Ill Terms with you. He visits you not with His great consolations All Things are against you; The things that appear for your Welfare, do but Ensnare you, do but Poison you, do but produce your further Distance from God.

Your very prosperity hurts you; Your Adversary lays the Chains of Death upon you. You are every moment in danger, of being seized by the formidable Justice of God for Eternal Burnings. If you Die Unpardoned, you are sent among Devils. Damn'd unto torments; must undergo a strange Punishment,

and a long one which is Reserved in a Future State, for the workers of iniquity. Oh! Sinner; this, is thy Lamentable Case And Knowing this how canst thou do any other than make that Sollicitious Enquiry; What must I do to be Saved? Knowing this Terror of the Lord. Oh! Be Perswaded!

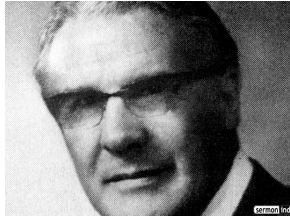
Something must be done; For we are sure, All men are not saved. There are some, who are Children of Perdition, There are some, who are Vessels of wrath; there are some who go away into everlasting punishment, Something must be done, to distinguish you from that crooked Generation. We read, Matthew 7:14 "Narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and Few there be that Find it". Indeed there is Nothing to be done by us, to merit our Salvation, But something must be done to secure our Salvation.

Indeed there is Nothing to be done by us, in our own strength. But something Must be done by us, thro' Christ who strengthens us. More plainly, Our Blessedness now come not unto us, on the Terms of a Covenant of works, 'Tis not properly our doings,

that is the condition of our Blessedness. We are to be Saved, by Taking rather than by Doing.

Cotton Mather (1615-1691). was an English Puritan church leader, divine scholar and controversialist, called by Dean Stanley "the chief of English Protestant Schoolmen". He is famous for writing the book the "Reformed Pastor." That is read by pastors and lay-people worldwide from all different denominational backgrounds. Baxter walked as a giant amongst men speaking forth the divine oracles of God. His piety, holiness and life are still today a en-sample to us as we continue onwards to that heavenly city not loving this present world..

Leonard Ravenhill



"This much is sure: If we could merit revival by fasting, there would be many martyred by starving. If we could organize revival, we would pool our thinking to outwit the powers of darkness. If we could buy this elusive revival with the mammon of unrighteousness, we could get a score of what we call Christian millionaires to underwrite the thing for us."

"God pity us that after years of writing, using mountains of paper and rivers of ink, exhausting flashy terminology about the biggest revival meetings in history, we are still faced with gross corruption in every nation, as well as with the most prayerless church age since Pentecost.

"We are too earthbound we live too much in time, we invest our time like the world invests it, we invest our money like the world does. We are supposed to be a different breed of people on this earth."

"How can you pull down strongholds of Satan if you don't even have the strength to turn off your TV?"

"The men that have been the most heroic for God have had the greatest devotional lives."

A.W. Pink



"The nature of Christ's salvation is woefully misrepresented by the present-day evangelist. He announces a Savior from hell rather than a Savior from sin. And that is why so many are fatally deceived, for there are multitudes who wish to escape the Lake of fire who have no desire to be delivered from their carnality and worldliness."

"Christ is a Savior for those realizing something of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, who feel the awful burden of it on their conscience, who loathe themselves for it, who long to be freed from its terrible dominion; and a Savior for no others."

"From every pulpit in the land it needs to be thundered forth that God still lives, that God still observes, ... still reigns. Faith is now in the crucible, it is being tested by fire, and there is no fixed... resting place for the heart and mind but in the Throne of God. What is needed now, as never before, is a full, positive, constructive setting forth of the Godhood of God."

"God has decreed that the general state of His people on earth shall be one of hardship, opposition, persecution. First, to arouse us to spiritual diligence. Second, to wean us from the world."

Amy Carmichael



"Pray that we may enter into that travail of soul with Him. Nothing less is any good. Spiritual children mean travail of soul-spiritual agony."

Give me the love that leads the way, The faith that nothing can dismay, The hope no disappointments tire, The passion that will burn like fire, Let me not sink to be a clod: Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.

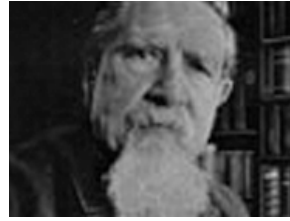
"It is a solemn thing to find oneself drawn out in prayer which knows no relief till the soul it is burdened with is born. It is no less solemn afterwards, until Christ is formed in them."

"If I cannot hear 'the sound of rain' long before the rain falls, and then go out to some hill-top of the Spirit, as near to my God as I can and have faith to wait there with my face between my knees, though six times or sixty times I am told 'there is nothing', till at last there arises a little cloud out of the sea, then I know nothing of Calvary love." (Read 1 Kings 18:41-45).

"The saddest thing one meets is a nominal Christian. I had not seen it in Japan where missions is younger. The church here is a 'field full of wheat and tares.'"

"Faith never wonders why."

Griffith John



"It is possible to evangelize the world in this generation, if the Church will but do her duty. The trouble is not with the heathen. A dead Church will prevent it, if it is prevented. Why should it not be accomplished? God will have all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth. The resources of the Church are boundless. Let the will of the Church be brought into line with the will of God, and nothing will be found to be impossible. May God grant it!"

"The secret of the success of the Apostles lay not in what they did and said, but in the presence of Christ in them and with them. They saw with the eyes of Christ, felt with His heart, and worked with His energies. They were nothing; Christ was everything. Christ was living, breathing, and triumphing in their personal lives. Their entire nature being replete with His life, their spirits bathed in His light, and their souls kindled with the fires of His love, they moved in the midst of men as embodiments of supernatural power... Brethren, this is what we must be, if this world) is to be moved through us. But to be this, the throne of grace must be our refuge, the secret place of the Most High must be our daily and hourly habitation."

Andrew Gih



"God's time for revival is the very darkest hour, when everything seems hopeless. It is always the Lord's way to go to the very worst cases to manifest His glory."

"God's program for reviving His people is definite and clear. First Elijah 'repaired the altar of Jehovah that was thrown down.' That is the place to begin. All the ruin that sin has wrought must be cleared away by confession. Things must be made right with God; restitution must be made where it is due. Unless this is done definitely and thoroughly, prayer for reviving is vain... Too many are praying today without repairing the altar by confession of sin, without digging a trench of separation from the world and without a surrender that is even unto death. No wonder such prayer is fruitless."

Then the Holy Spirit fell on the whole congregation and all were convicted of sin and confessed with tears of contrition. At the closing meeting there was no opportunity for preaching. The Holy Spirit was working and people spontaneously confessed their sins and need, or gave joyous testimonies of salvation."

"Christ will be master of the heart, and sin must be mortified. If your life is unholy, then your heart is unchanged, and you are an unsaved person. The Savior will sanctify His people, renew them, give them a hatred of sin, and a love of holiness. The grace that does not make a man better than others is a worthless counterfeit. Christ saves His people." -C.H. Spurgeon